

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION UPDATE



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TO: Veterinarians, Public Health -- Required

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SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 1st Quarter Update – Jan. 1 – March 31, 2008

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Animal Rabies 1st Quarterly Update

January 1 – March 31, 2008

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides a quarterly update on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update may be used as an educational tool to increase the understanding of pet owners and other members of the public regarding the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.

This update is for rabid animals for the first quarter of 2008 or January 1 – March 31, 2008 (Table). Visit the Maine CDC rabies prevention website for more information, including rabies testing data updated regularly: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/rabies_surveillance.htm

Table 1: Animal rabies by county, town and species – Maine, January 1 – March 31, 2008

County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)	
Hancock	Trenton		1			1
Kennebec	Vassalboro	1				1
Knox	Camden			1		2
	Rockland			1		
Penobscot	Old Town		1			1
Waldo	Unity			1		1
York	Saco		1			2
	Sanford				1 (Fox, red)	
Species Total		1	3	3	1	
Maine Total						8

Maine CDC and the Maine Department of Agriculture would like to remind partners of the standard protocol to follow when an overdue domestic pet presents for a rabies booster. The Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control is very clear on this issue; it recommends: “If a previously vaccinated animal is overdue for a booster, it should be revaccinated. Immediately following the booster, the animal is considered currently vaccinated and should be placed on a vaccination schedule according to the labeled duration of the vaccine used.” It also recommends that a “previously vaccinated animal” be verified either by your own hospital records or by a valid rabies certificate presented at the time of examination. Whether the animal is one month overdue or one year overdue, it can be placed on a three year vaccine if available at your clinic.

Rabies vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity, as recommended in the Compendium. This particularly applies to rabies vaccines used in local clinics put on for the public. We need to maximize every opportunity to enhance rabies prevention efforts to minimize the ongoing threat of rabies transmission from bats and wildlife to domestic pets in Maine.

The Compendium, published annually by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is an excellent resource and is easily accessible on the web at: www.nasphv.org/documents/Compendia.html For more information on overdue rabies vaccinations and other rabies-related issues, refer to the Maine CDC Rabies Surveillance website: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/rabies_surveillance.htm